

Black Horse Livery Stable  
Grant Street, forty feet South of Willow Creek  
South Pass City  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-29

HABS  
WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20005

## BLACK HORSE LIVERY STABLE

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WYO,  
7-SOPAC,  
2-

Location: Grant Street, forty feet South of Willow Creek, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680850.4703840.

Present Owner: State of Wyoming.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: Preserved as historic building by Wyoming Recreation Commission and used as a combination storage area and barn.

Statement of Significance: This was one of the original livery stables in South Pass City and is typical of a frontier livery stable of the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1868.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property: Lots 91, 89, 87, and 85 on Grant Street, forty feet South of Willow Creek, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.

(Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) The original owner of these lots was George Dunn in 1868. The ownership was transferred in 1893 to W. T. Meadows, Jno V. Anderson, Ed Carns, and J. B. Irvin when the Black Horse Livery Stable was incorporated into the Wolverine Lode claim. The Wolverine Lode was sold to Barney Tibbals in 1896 for \$201. In 1897, Tibbals sold the claim to Charles Van Sickle for \$200. Van Sickle sold the Wolverine Lode along with other mining claims of the Mohamet Group to John C. Spry for \$12,000 in 1899. In 1900, John C. Spry sold the Wolverine Lode for one dollar to the Federal Gold Mining Company of which he became president. The Federal Gold Mining Company then sold the Wolverine Lode to Mrs. Janet Smith, John

Sherlock, William Sherlock, and Peter Sherlock for \$100 in 1901. In 1923, Janet Smith died and left her share of the Wolverine Lode to Peter Sherlock, Jennie Sherlock, John Sherlock, William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, and James Smith. In 1936, John Sherlock died leaving shares of the Wolverine Lode to be divided between Lulu Sherlock, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, and Donald Sherlock. In 1947, Peter Sherlock died leaving his share of the Wolverine Lode to William Sherlock, Anna Tibbals, Janett Payne, Norman Smith, Richard Sherlock, James Sherlock, Donald Sherlock, and Lulu Topham. In 1948, Jennie Sherlock died and left her share of the Wolverine Lode to be divided between Janet Tibbals, Anna Tibbals, and James Tibbals. From 1948 to 1949, the various members of the Sherlock family sold their share for \$10 and other considerations to James Sherlock. James Sherlock sold the Wolverine claim for \$10 to Fred Stratton and Nelle Stratton in 1949, who leased it to their son, Fred Stratton, Jr. In 1955, the property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. John Woodring. In turn, the Woodrings sold the Black Horse Livery Stable to the Wyoming 75th Anniversary Commission, Inc., in 1966. The 1967 Wyoming Legislature created the Old South Pass Historical Preserve to take care of the city. In 1969, the legislature turned over operation and maintenance of South Pass City to the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

4. Alterations and additions: The livery stable has been used ever since it was built and so a certain amount of maintenance and improvement has taken place over the years. In about 1900, a hay shed was attached to the stable, but this was torn down in 1969 in an effort to make the stable appear as it did originally.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: None located.
2. Bibliography:
  - a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Carter County, Records of Carter County, "Deed Book B,"  
Dakota Territory. Western History Research Center,  
Coe Library, Laramie, Wyoming.

Shaffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Muths, Thomas. Restoration Master Plan, South Pass City,  
Wyoming. Jackson, Wyoming: Design Associates, 1972.

Prepared by John Paige  
Project Historian  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building is a very good example of a 19th century livery stable.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This simple one-story rectangular building is approximately 26'-8" x 40'-4" with the long dimension consisting of three bays.
2. Foundations: None.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Hand-hewn lodgepole pine logs laid horizontally with notched and overlapping corner joints. The joints between logs are chinked, primarily with wood. However, there has been patching with concrete in a few locations.
4. Structural system, framing: The logs form load bearing walls. The roof is framed by a ridge beam and two intermediate beams midway between the ridge beam and the wall which run the long dimension of the building. These three members rest on the end walls and are supported intermediately by a series of logs spanning the short dimension of the building located at approximately one-third points. This series of logs is tied together by a bolt at the center which runs through all the logs in a vertical direction. The corner joints of the log walls are saddle notch joints.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There is an opening just to the left

of center in the south (front) wall. This appears to be an opening primarily for people. There is a wide double-leaf opening (with the right-hand leaf a dutch door) in the center of the north (rear) wall. This appears to have been primarily for the horses.

b. Windows and shutters: None.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The low gable roof has a covering of corrugated metal sheets which overlap each other. This roof appears to have been recently put in place.

b. Eaves: Open, with framing ends exposed.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The building, one story in height, consists of a single undivided space from front to rear in the center third of the building. On each side of this space there are seven individual stalls. The left rear (northwest) stall has been enclosed as a storage room.
2. Flooring: Random-width, hand-hewn wooden planks varying in thickness from 2" to 5" are placed directly on grade. The direction of the planking is parallel to the long dimension of the building in the center space and parallel to the short dimension of the building in the stalls.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are the interior face of the logs. The ceiling has 1 x 12 sheathing which replaces an original material of undetermined origin.
4. Doorways and doors: There is one opening into the storage space from the long central space.
5. Special features and trim: Feeding troughs, the full width of each stall, are attached inside the stable to the east and west walls. It is 24" high with the front face 30" from the outside wall at the top and 9" from the outside wall at the bottom (floor). There is a small box at each end of the trough which is approximately 14" wide, 27" long and 12" deep. They are placed at the top of the troughs.
6. Lighting: Electric lights have been added.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The livery stable is located approximately forty feet South of Willow Creek (which is to the rear of the building) and is oriented to the south (facing on Grant St.).

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Architect  
Project Supervisor  
National Park Service  
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.

**ADDENDUM TO:**  
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**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
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